

UNCLASSIFIED

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(c) (U) Proposals for automation of biological assay procedures have been evaluated. M.R.D. Subsidiary of General Transportation Corporation has been selected as offering the most advanced system.

b. (S) Ecology and Epidemiology (U):

(1) (S) In-House (U):

(a) (S) The E & E In-House group has continued on the surveillance of VEE (Venezuelan Equine encephalitis virus) in the Dugway area.

(b) (S) VEE diagnostic data on 500 Pacific bird sera (DTC) have shown 31 presumptive positive group A arbovirus reactors. These are under study for confirmation.

(c) (S) Pacific soft tick studies on tularemia transmission are in progress.

(2) (U) Contracts:

(a) (S) A contract was let to Oklahoma University Research Institute for ecologic and epidemiologic studies in Central Alaska between 15 July 1964 and 31 May 1965. A pre-contract team from E & E Branch was sent to Alaska to collect during the period 29 June to 21 July 1964.

(b) (S) Contract work with the University of Utah continues. Survey effort on Pasteurella pestis will continue in view of past findings. No evidence implicating Dugway Proving Ground as a source of spread of test infections was found. A strain of Pasteurella tularensis of low virulence has been found in plants and rabbits. Contractor will determine the distinction between Dugway originated organisms and endemic organisms regarding their separate influence on surveillance data. Completion of 60,000 IBM cards on surveillance studies back to 1956 was approved.